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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the center of our joy, prepare our spirits, clarify our minds, and stir our hearts for Your movements among us.

Lord, use us to bring peace on Earth. Help us to feel Your presence in our opportunities to touch hurting lives. May Your whispers prompt us to deliver captives and bring healing to the bruised.

Abide in the hearts and minds of our Senators. Guide them with Your counsel so that they may not stumble or fall. Use their hands to transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 21, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lynne M. Tracy, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I see the Presiding Officer is in your Ukrainian yellow and blue, as am I, and that is appropriate because this will be a day to remember in the history of the U.S. Congress when we welcome President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine. This is President Zelenskyy's first trip outside Ukraine since the beginning of

Russia's invasion. The President of this young democracy will address Members from both Chambers in a joint meeting of Congress. It is always a high honor to welcome a foreign head of state to Congress, but it is nearly unheard of to hear from a leader who is fighting for his life, fighting for his country's survival, and fighting to preserve the very idea of democracy. It shows the importance President Zelenskyy places on us continuing to give him robust help.

Where Winston Churchill stood generations ago, so, too, President Zelenskyy stands, not just as a President but also as an ambassador to freedom itself.

Let me say that again because it is so important. Where Winston Churchill stood generations ago, so, too, will President Zelenskyy stand here today, not just as a President but as an ambassador to freedom itself.

President Zelenskyy could not arrive at a more crucial moment for the Senate. We are not only voting to approve more emergency wartime funding, but today, here in the Senate, we will also vote to confirm the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Lynne Tracy, who will be tasked with standing up to Putin.

We should complete our work on both the omnibus with Ukrainian aid and the confirmation of our new Ambassador to Russia very quickly.

I hope all House Republicans will attend the Zelenskyy address this evening, and when they do, they should listen to President Zelenskyy describe the horror his people have endured at the hands of Vladimir Putin.

I hope that Donald Trump's friendship with Putin is not motivating House Republicans to turn a blind eye to Ukraine's suffering and desperate need for help, because the so-called friendship between Putin and Trump was a sour relationship that was deeply damaging to our country and to the international order.

This week marks 10 months since Vladimir Putin began his unprovoked,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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